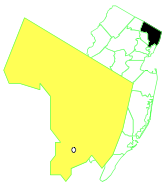
# SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING

## NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD070565403



**EPA REGION 2**
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 09
Bergen County
Carlstadt

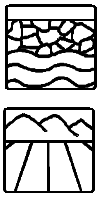
## Site Description

The Scientific Chemical Processing site covers 6 acres and is located in a light industrial area of Carlstadt. This site is a former waste processing facility that accepted various wastes for recovery and disposal. About 375,000 gallons of hazardous substances were stored on site in tanks, drums, and tank trailers. The site shut down operations in 1980 in response to a court order. Some company officials have received fines and jail terms for illegally dumping hazardous waste. From 1979 to 1980, drums and contaminated soil were removed. The site now is vacant, except for two small buildings and a roll-off container holding a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) sludge tank. An interim remedy (consisting of a slurry wall, infiltration barrier, and dewatering system), which temporarily eliminates direct contact with contaminated materials and controls off-site migration of contamination from on-site soils and shallow groundwater, is in place. The site is located within a coastal wetlands management area, bordered on the northeast by Peach Island Creek, a tidal waterway. Local surface water is used for recreation and industrial water supplies. Three private residences are within a mile of the site. All nearby businesses and residences are believed to be on public water supplies. The population within a 2-mile radius is approximately 14,500.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through a combination of Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

**NPL LISTING HISTORY**
Proposed Date: 12/01/82
Final Date: 09/01/83

## Threats and Contaminants



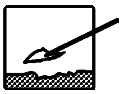
On-site groundwater and soil contamination consists of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzene, chloroform, and trichloroethylene (TCE); PCBs; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) including naphthalene; and heavy metals. Off-site sediment contamination along Peach Island Creek consists of VOCs, phenol, PAHs, petroleum hydrocarbons,

heavy metals, and the pesticide dieldrin. Surface water contamination in Peach Island Creek consists of VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, and heavy metals including nickel and zinc. The site is entirely fenced and bordered by Peach Island Creek on the northeast side, thereby reducing public access to the site. The potential health risks to individuals who may come in contact with site pollutants, specifically those who accidentally contact contaminated soils, surface waters, groundwater, and sediments have been temporarily reduced by the interim remedy. The potential threat to coastal wetlands by site contaminants has also been reduced by the interim remedy.

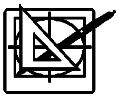
## Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases. The first long-term remedial phase focuses on cleanup of the on-site, shallow groundwater and soil, while the second focuses on cleanup of the deeper aquifer and off-site groundwater contamination.

### Response Action Status



**Immediate Actions:** To address the immediate threats posed by the contaminants, Inmar Associates, the property owner, removed 55 tanks and one tank trailer under New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection supervision between 1985 and 1986.



**On-Site Groundwater and Soil:** Under EPA oversight, the potentially responsible parties began conducting an investigation in 1985 to determine the type and extent of on-site groundwater and soil contamination. In 1990, the EPA selected an interim remedy to address the contaminated on-site groundwater and soil which includes construction of a slurry wall, infiltration barrier, and groundwater collection system to retrieve groundwater for treatment off site. This interim remedy, which was completed in June 1992, is intended to contain the contamination until a permanent remedy can be selected. A statutory Five Year Review was issued for the interim Remedy in September 1998. The five year review indicated that during the development of the final remedy, the current use of the property or potentially impacted groundwater do not indicate a need for any further immediate actions. EPA expects to issue a Record of Decision addressing the on-site soil in Spring 2002.

**Aquifer and Off-Site Groundwater:** The parties potentially responsible for the contamination began an investigation in 1988, under EPA oversight, to determine the type and extent of contamination to the underlying aquifer and off-site groundwater and to identify alternative technologies for the cleanup. The results of the investigation showed that off-site contamination appears to be more extensive than previously thought. The investigation is being continued and expanded to ensure that the full extent of off-site contamination is determined.

**Site Facts:** A Federal District Court trial resulted in the conviction of three corporate officials of Scientific Chemical Processing on charges arising from the disposal of bulk solvents into the Newark, New Jersey sewer systems and drummed wastes into Lone Pine Landfill. In 1983, the State Court ruled that the site owner/operators were liable for the cleanup and were required to submit a cleanup plan by July 1983 or show poverty. In September 1985, the EPA issued an Administrative Order on Consent to 108 respondents for the performance of an investigation to determine the type

and extent of contamination at the site and to identify alternative technologies for the cleanup. In October 1985, the EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to an additional 31 respondents, requiring them to cooperate with the 108 parties and to participate in the investigation. A civil complaint against Inmar was filed by the United States in January 1987. The complaint sought reimbursement for EPA's oversight costs as well as penalties for violation of the EPA's Administrative Order. A settlement was reached in 1988. In September 1990, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order requiring 43 respondents to implement the interim remedy. The interim remedy was completed in June 1992.

## Environmental Progress

The owner of the property addressed immediate threats posed by the Scientific Chemical Processing site by removing 55 contaminated tanks and a tank trailer under EPA oversight. An interim remedy which is intended to reduce migration of the contamination from on-site groundwater and soil until a final remedy is selected is in place. The interim remedy consists of a cap, dewatering system, and a slurry wall. The interim remedy has included the collection and off-site disposal of over 400,000 gallons of contaminated water since 1992. Further investigations leading to the selection of a final remedy for the off-site groundwater contamination are being conducted by the parties potentially responsible for the site contamination. In addition, a treatability study to evaluate a potential remedial alternative for the contaminated on-site soil was completed in 2000. Based on the results of the treatability study, EPA expects to propose a final remedy for on site soils during the Spring of 2002.